

What is primary education for? The Cambridge Primary Review shares its latest recommendations

Plus, what it's like to be a rare breed: a female vice-chancellor, and admissions tutors reveal the secrets of a good personal statement; all on our education networks this week

Kerry Eustice, Claire Shaw and Abby Young-Powell
The Guardian, Monday 30 September 2013

Share 9

Tweet 71

1

Pin it

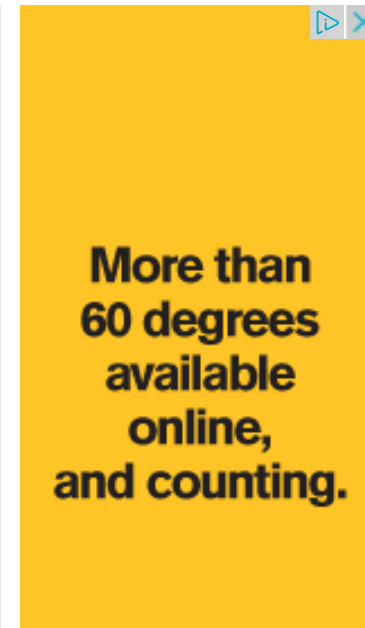
in Share 2

Email



Article history

Education





The Cambridge Primary Review wants creativity in classrooms to be valued alongside numeracy and literacy. Photograph: David Levene for the Guardian

Guardian Teacher Network

In 2004, a group of UK academics examined the state of primary education in England. Two years later the **Cambridge Primary Review** (CPR) launched and, following thousands of interviews and hours of [research](#) conducted over three years, key recommendations were published. It called for the quick fixes and snap reforms of government to be replaced with a long-term, sustainable vision for primary [schools](#). The Labour government didn't like it, but it hasn't stopped schools in this country and across the world acting on the ideas.

The second iteration of the project has just been launched – the Cambridge Primary Review Trust. At the trust's launch event **Prof Robin Alexander**, CPR founder, fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge, and professor of education at York University, was critical of narrow approaches to curriculum and assessment in England and outlined the group's seven priorities.

Packed with big issues and challenges, the list calls for a renewed focus

Education

Teaching · Schools ·
Higher education ·
Students · Research

More resources



On Education

Most viewed Latest

Last 24 hours



1. Student loan system is almost financially unworkable, say MPs

2. Birmingham schools 'feel like the Balkans', says Labour

3. Dear Ms Morgan: don't try to drive a wedge between teachers and parents

4. Michael Gove: 'bogeyman' or 'the greatest education secretary ever'?

5. Michael Gove has gone, Nicky Morgan must deal with the problems he left

on educational disadvantage and closing the gap; a broad and balanced curriculum that values humanities and culture as well as literacy and numeracy and for primary education to be about more than preparing children for secondary education.

On the GTN this week, we look at CPR's full list and open up the debate: what are the priorities and purposes of primary education? **Join us to share your views.**

Also on the network: Our inclusion expert, Daniel Sobel, writes about the four [teaching](#) assistants who have influenced his work. And, on the careers advice hub, we have tips and insights for aspiring headteachers from leaders that have already made the leap.

Kerry Eustice

Guardian Higher Education Network

The stats don't lie. When it comes to senior leadership roles in [higher education](#), women are rarities. Just 14% of UK vice-chancellors are women, with only one of the 24 large research-intensive institutions that make up the Russell Group – the University of Manchester – being female-led.

So what's it like to be one of the few women leading a university? As part of our new interview series, Big on Campus, **John Crace meets Janet Beer**, vice-chancellor of Oxford Brookes University, to find out. Institutional sexism aside, John finds out about the relationship between Oxford Brookes and Oxford University, managing a multi-campus university, and how to persuade [students](#) of the value (all £27,000 worth) of a university education.

Also this week, **Luke Georghiou**, vice-president for research and innovation at Manchester University, discusses the pros and cons of global collaborative research. For some researchers, he explains, there's no option: "If you study volcanoes or rainforests, you need to travel." But changes to research funding overseas are providing challenges for academics. Visit the Higher Education Network today to hear what problems this is having for the.

[More most viewed](#)

Today's best video



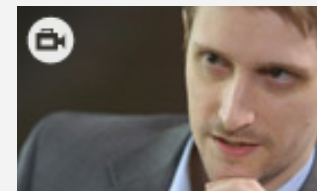
This comedy troupe has ceased to be ...

The five surviving members of Monty Python bid farewell in their final show at London's O2 Arena



David Beckham and sons 'gold slimed'

Footballer and family at Nickelodeon Kids' Choice sports awards



Edward Snowden: 'I'm not a Russian spy'

NSA whistleblower talks exclusively to the Guardian



The Guardian Film Show

Our critics review this week's big releases, some of which involve animals

 [99 comments](#)

Claire Shaw

Guardian Students

In the latest in our series about how to write a personal statement, we've asked lecturers and admissions tutors for their advice on how to pen a stand-out **personal statement to study medicine**. Find out what they say online.

What's the point of school uniform? A student blogger asks whether wearing a uniform is a badge of pride or an unfashionable expense. "My uniform might not be what I would wear in my own time," she writes, "but it gives me a sense of belonging, takes away the pressure of what to wear and deters the bullies."

We're also talking about **disability and graduate jobs** and look at a new website that aims to help students with disabilities to get a top job.

Abby Young-Powell

[f Share](#) [Tweet](#) [in Share](#) [Email](#)

More from the guardian

[Manchester United training pitches relaid on Louis van Gaal's orders](#) 22 Jul 2014

[Shakhtar Donetsk's Douglas Costa: returning to Ukraine is deadly risk](#) 22 Jul 2014

[The Guardian view on collapsing plans to sell off student debt](#) 22 Jul 2014

[I couldn't stop crying, then counselling changed my life](#) 22 Jul 2014

[Birmingham schools 'feel like the Balkans', says](#)

More from around the web Promoted content by Outbrain

[5 Unbelievably Helpful Tips For Learning A Foreign Language \(Post-it® Brand\)](#)

[Why I'll Never Let My Babysitter Drive My Kid \(Stirring Daily\)](#)

[The Truth About Online Education - It's Not What You Expect \(NPR\)](#)

[Analytical Skills Quiz: Which Thinker Are You? \(American Management Association\)](#)

On the Guardian today



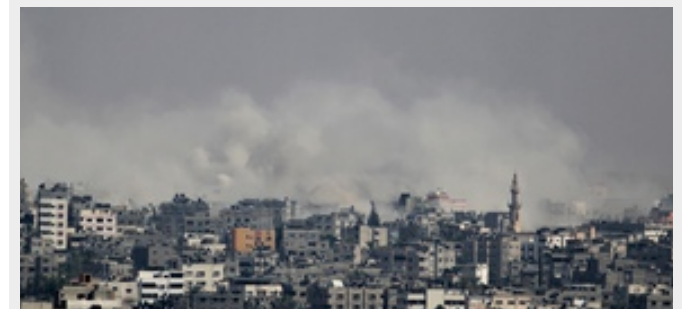
World news

Government agents 'directly involved' in most high-profile US terror plots



Society

Parents who allow female genital mutilation will be prosecuted



**BUY FLOORING ONLINE.
PICK UP IN-STORE.**

1.	ORDER ONLINE, PICK UP IN 2 HRS
2.	FULL RANGE OF FLOORING OPTIONS

LET'S DO THIS.

CLOSEST PICKUP >

U.S. only. See store for details.



Ads by Google

ITT Tech - Official Site

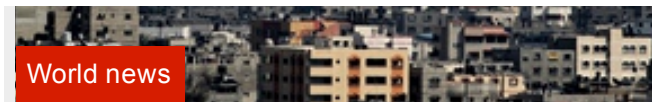
Associate, Bachelor Degree Programs Browse Programs Now & Learn More.
www.itt-tech.edu

Arizona State University

Early Childhood Education Schools 100% Online. Advance Your Career!
asuonline.asu.edu/early-childhood

Distance Learning

Online and Campus College Degrees. Official Site. Start Classes Today.
phoenix.edu



World news

Israel hits hundreds of targets in Gaza as soldier is confirmed missing



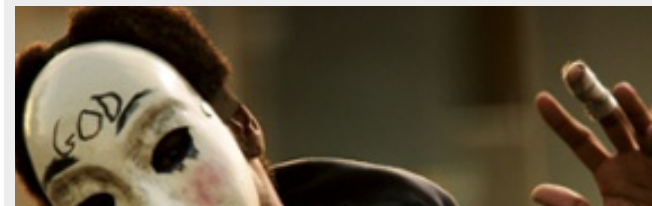
World news

Detroit residents fight back over water shutoff: 'It's a life-or-death situation'



Media **AKING NEWS**

MH17: my error of judgment, by Sky News reporter





Technology

Twitter trend based on The Purge films exposes horror of revenge porn

- Hot topics
- University league tables
- School league tables
- A-levels and A-level results
- Clearing
- University guide

[License/buy our content](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Terms of service](#) | [US advertising](#) | [A - Z index](#) | [About us](#)

© 2014 Guardian News and Media Limited or its affiliated companies. All rights reserved.

9

Share

Tweet

1

2

